WHIRRAKEE

May 2009 Vol. 30 No. 4

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with a 10 minute thing-of-the night natural history segment. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Ben Goonan, Liz Graham, Diana Collier. *More committee members are urgently sought, see page 3.*

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one sub-group (the Fauna Study Group) and is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5449 3479 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 30, No. 4, May 2009
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.

Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
This edition is dedicated to insects, birds, reptiles and fungi...what a great variety this month! So many original observations and other contributions there is not even space for an editorial. Enjoy!

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Rod Orr
Acripeza reticulata (a native Katydid), photographed during a walk along a lava canal at Mt Eccles. This is the female – she is flightless. The male was found later towards the end of the walk – it was longer, more slender and had long wings. 'Insects of Australia' declares that it is widespread in South-eastern Australia, but Rod says that he has only ever seen it in Aust. Alpine areas, where it is commonly found in summer. He couldn't get a convincing photo of its warning display - it had grown tired of repeated attempts of trying to get it to display. See also page 8, for another find from this Mt Eccles excursion.

Short notices

May General Meeting – Preview

Presenter: Lynda Chambers, Centre for Australian Weather & Climate Research - Bureau of Meteorology

Title: 'Flora, fauna, climate change and community science: How you can help'

Outline: Temperature, rainfall and other climate variables influence species occurrence, range boundaries and behaviour. Climate can also influence the timing of natural events, such as flowering, migration, breeding and moult, as well as the availability of food sources for fauna, such as seeds, flowers, insects and other prey items.

Assessing the impact of climate change on species requires good quality historical species information. This can come from variety of sources, including government departments, non-government organizations, universities, published literature or private journals. Additional information is likely to come from the records of naturalists, through daily (or weekly) species lists, breeding and flowering records and other information contained in field records, dated photographs, and notebooks. Recent evidence suggests that climate is already altering the timing of natural events, species distributions, productivity and brood survival, and influencing population sizes. However, most Australian studies cover limited spatial areas, very few studies include information on climate-species relationships prior to the 1950s, when global temperatures began to rapidly rise, and little is known of interactions between species or with other threatening processes. Given the enormity of the problem, it is critical that we reinvigorate past monitoring programs and initiate new ones, while reducing as many of the non-climate change threats as possible. Engaging the community is one way of achieving this.

In the context of this topic, read on…

Ern Perkins, winner of the Australian Natural History medallion, will be giving a special presentation titled **'The changing forests – the importance of long term monitoring'.**

Wednesday, May 28, 7.30pm in the clubroom

ALL WELCOME

Thing of the Night - Bob Ruddick: The Eaglehawk Environmental Group

by Sabine Wilkens

This community group has a long history, but has existed with the current name since 1990. They started off just wanting to make a list of significant plants in the area, but as we know, all things are connected, and their active interest soon grew to the wider environment. They began communicating with the council, and became eligible to participate in council's 'parks and gardens' committee. Topics they looked at, especially in conjunction with plans to revegetate Lake Tom Thumb area, included rubbish, weeds, native species, water quality, salinity and birds.
In studying and monitoring all of these aspects, local primary and secondary school children were recruited and Bob believes that for this reason (involving school children/ community), the level of vandalism is kept low in comparison to other areas. In 2009, further tree planting and Water Watch activities are planned with local schools.

The group has submitted a five-year plan to council with respect to weed control and revegetation. The planning of the latter includes showcasing to the community what can be done in the current (and likely future) dry times. Part of the planning is also for fire risk and Bob handed out a list of fire resistant plants that are being considered at present *(a copy of this can be obtained from me, if interested).*
It was great to hear about the commitment and forward planning of this group. I have never visited Lake Tom Thumb, but I am curious to do so now.

April General Meeting – 'Invertebrate research' Speaker: Alan Yen

by Sabine Wilkens

Our Club was very lucky to have Alan Yen talk to us in April. Alan is one of the few invertebrate experts in Victoria, and as a result, is unbelievably busy. In spite of this, he made time to tell us about three regional invertebrate projects he has been involved in recently, as well as his thoughts on entomophagy. The three research projects are the box-ironbark thinning experiment, and two studies about effects of agricultural chemical on invertebrates:

The box-ironbark thinning project is run by Parks Victoria and is investigating whether or not thinning of eucalypts accelerates the development of 'old growth conditions' and thus brings forward mature ecosystem functioning. If this was the case, thinned plots would develop greater habitat diversity, including hollows, at an earlier age and thus promote overall biodiversity. As an invertebrate expert, Alan was involved in deciding what animal groups can be used for assessment and monitoring purposes, as obviously not all invertebrates can ever be studied in such an experiment. The team decided on pitfall trapping for on-the-ground-active species and vacuum collecting for understorey species. The latter was abandoned later.
The initial assessment of the pitfall traps revealed 22 different orders of invertebrates, 60-80% of which were ants. In the post-thinning surveys, there were an even greater proportion of ants. Unfortunately, populations vary a lot anyway, over geographical space, over the seasons and over the years, and when biologists are trying to see patterns as a result of experimental treatments, conclusions can often only be limited after a limited period of experimentation. It is thus possible that any increase in ant proportions after thinning is related to the time of sampling (which was all done in spring) rather to the thinning treatments themselves, as all the pre thinning surveys was done well into summer.

As we often don't know what exactly each individual species of ant does in any environment, ants are often classified into bigger, so-called 'functional groups', which have more obvious ecological roles. Although the usefulness of this functional grouping is still controversial, one group stood out in these forests, the 'opportunistic' group was dominant throughout the two sampling (pre-and post thinning) periods.

The box-ironbark forests represent a disturbed environment, and as such, one would expect opportunists to abound whatever treatment you apply. However, initial conclusions are that ants are the most dominant component of the ground fauna, with 86 species found pre-thinning and 96 species post-thinning. More conclusive results may have to wait till the effect of disturbance is lessened over time, after which scientists predict that some (more) of the rarer species will re-appear in the experimental plots.

The second study Alan talked about was one where the **effects of agricultural herbicides on earthworms** are investigated. Earthworms are critical for ecosystem functioning, but not much is known about their reaction to herbicides (the most widely used agricultural chemicals in Australia). This study is only at an early stage, and so far is has been determined, that, yes, earthworms are indeed stressed by these chemicals. The important question is now, to what extent their role in the ecosystem is affected by this.

The third project, also still in its early stages, is looking at the **effects of aerial spraying for plague locusts on other, non-target invertebrates**. In Africa, negative effects on other invertebrates have been shown. The experiment began two months ago (in the absence of plague locusts) with spray lines and control (non-spray) lines set 200 (2000?)m apart. Sampling is done in 4 plots along each line. As above, pre- and post spraying surveys need to be done, and again, decisions have to be made as to what invertebrate group to concentrate on from a practical sampling perspective, but also with

regards to which group will give most meaningful results.

Entomophagy was the last topic of the talk, and the reason my daughter and her cousin were keen to come along that night. This topic is one of interest to Alan, and he recently attended a United Nation conference on edible insects.
In 1885, Holt produced a book with the title, 'why not eat insects?', and in it advocated the use of insects as food, but mainly for the poor people and nations who do not have adequate access to other sources of protein. Amongst Western nations, this advice has not been heeded so far, and, to the contrary, insect eating is considered chic only by the privileged, who can order imported roasted bees or ants from expensive delicatessen catalogues. However, the number of publication on insect food is large (in English and many other languages).

What kinds of insects are eaten by people? Ants, bees and wasps, moths and butterflies (more often in the larval stage), grasshoppers, beetles, lice, dragonflies and mayflies are all published as being used or having been used in the past. All up there are records of 1500-2000 species of insects and other invertebrates being used for food.

In what countries are insects a regular part of the diet? Insects are eaten in over one hundred countries, by people on all continents, but mainly in Africa and Asia, less so in Australia and less still in Europe. Anthropologists' records are probably incomplete though. Often insect eating was probably not recorded, either because it was not considered important or even barbarian, or observations on diets were done in the 'off season'. However, world-wide, there is now an increasing trend to eat insects caused partly by global tourism and immigration. Just to show how unusual Western tastes are with regards to insects, about 80% of the world's population eats insects voluntarily.
Whether it meets with our taste or not, we all eat insects anyway. And it is not just the accidental fly we breathe in while we sleep. Food manufacturing guidelines allow a certain percentage of contamination of food to be from insects. For example in the US, 34 fruit fly eggs are 'allowed' per cup of raisins, 15 insect heads per 100g fig paste and 74 mites per 100g of canned mushrooms.

In many African countries insects form a solid part of people's diet and are consumed, for example in Zaire, at a rate of 60kg/person/year. In most cases, it is the immature stage that is consumed in preference over the chitinous adults. Humans can generally not digest chitin, although some people seem to be able to do so.

To prepare them, insects can be fried, boiled, steamed, sautéed, stir-fried, deep-fried roasted or grilled. Alan advised to avoid eating raw insects due to potential parasites in these. Freezing will kill some of them, but not all.

The increasing reliance on insects and popularity of insects for export (e.g. the Mopane worm, a moth larva from Africa), is currently leading to over-collecting and increased threats to populations in some countries, as habitats are also shrinking rapidly. Thus, when promoting insect as food, the sustainability of this practice needs careful consideration. The UN conference that Alan recently attended, addressed this issue. Some people have begun to culture the Mopane worm for harvesting. Farming insects would certainly need less space and resources than other traditional sources of protein (goats, cattle, etc) and thus make a much smaller ecological footprint.

Amongst Australia's indigenous population, insect eating is less widespread and less well documented than elsewhere. Insects, known to be eaten by aboriginal people, include different species of Wiljuti grubs (a cossid moth larva), Bardi grubs (a cerambycid beetle larva), Bogong Moth, honey ants and the sugary lerps of psyllids. Why does Australia have so few leaf-feeding edible insects? Alan suggested this might be because feeding on the oils of eucalypts leaves makes insects taste bad.

Before insects can be adopted more widely as a food source for humans or live stock, the industry will need some regulation with regards to sustainability, standards and safety. Futuristic possibilities are to culture insect cells only (rather than whole insects) to avoid viral contamination.
The ideas made my head spin. A whole new agriculture based on insect rearing...Instead of paddocks and pig sheds, we'll have...just think of it.

Thanks Alan, for a fascinating insight into current and future projects on insects.
At the end of the presentation, Alan flagged a symposium organised by the Royal Society of Victoria entitled *A golden era, a changed ecosystem forever*, which will be held on the 2/3 December this year and should be of special interest to Bendigonians. Keep your ear close to the ground for this one.

SEANA Camp-out Bird Observations by Jane Cleary

20.3.2009 Griffith Island
White-faced Herons (2x adult & 6x young), Little Pied Cormorant, Pied Oystercatcher, Silver Gull,Pacific Gull (immature), Crested Tern, Singing Honeyeater, Mutton Bird or Short-tailed Shearwater (at dusk coming in to their burrows, also there were many Mutton Bird carcasses to be seen, some had been recently killed), Red-necked Stints.

21.3.2009 Boat trip to Lady Julia Percy Island. Departed Port Fairy 8am, weather clear, sunny, slight swell
En route: Australian Gannets, Crested Tern, Pacific Gull and numerous Dolphins and Australian Fur Seal
On and close to the island: Peregrine Falcons, Nankeen Kestrels, Little Eagle, Cattle Egret, White Faced Heron Welcome Swallow, Black-faced Shag.
Large fish were seen from the stern of the boat when moored about 60 metres from the rocks. The sea bed was weed covered, with seaweed 'trees' reaching up towards the surface. A large gummy shark, well over a metre long was observed. Many seals from the colony swam around the boat whilst it was moored. The trip took 4 hours to complete and on rounding Griffith Island at 12:00 pm, to enter Port Fairy, we were surprised by a hot land breeze and instant summer heat.

Shells found at Port Fairy
Purple Shell *Janthina janthina,* Chiton Plates, Abalone (young), Limpets (various), Pheasant Shell, Turban Shell, Tent Shell, Kelp Shell, Top Shell, Cowrie, Black Periwinkle, Triton, Cone Shells, Mussels, Tellins.

22.3.2009 West Beach
Sooty Oystercatcher, Sooty Albatross (at sea), Masked Lapwing, Pacific Gull, Crested Tern, Hooded Plover (very numerous), Red-necked Stint (feeding in kelp), Double-banded Plover (feeding in kelp), Kelp Gull, Striated Field Wren, Pied Oystercatcher, Great Cormorant, Caspian Tern, White-faced Heron, Pacific Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstones (feeding in kelp), Greenfinch, Turtle Dove, Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Red-capped Dotterel.

22.3.2009 East Beach
Grey-Headed Albatross (dead on beach), Nankeen Kestrel (hunting in the dunes), Black Swan and Mountain Duck (both on inland waters).

22.3.2009 Killarney Beach
Pacific Gull, Kelp Gull, Red-necked Stint, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Little Pied cormorant, Ruddy Turnstone, Sooty and Pied Oystercatcher, Little Penguin (dead on beach)

22.3.2009 Belfast Coastal Reserve
Silver Gulls, Ruddy Turnstone, Australian Gannet, Crested Tern, Welcome Swallow, Singing Honeyeater.

23.3.2009 Point Ritchie
Black-shouldered Kite, Nankeen Kestrel, Pelicans, Singing Honeyeater, White Eared Honeyeater, Black Swan, Silver Gull, Welcome Swallow, Coots, Little Grebes with young, Crested Terns, Red-capped Dotterel, Willie Wagtail.

Observations from the April General Meeting

Recorded by Jan Orr

Annette Mouat

She has lived in Mandurang for 13 years and this is the first summer that she has not observed Eastern Spinebills in her garden. She has had nectar producing flowers but despite the availability for food she has not seen them this summer.

Elaine Doling

The Tawny Frogmouths have returned to her garden.

One of her resident magpies has begun to imitate other birds during its 'warbling' sessions. So far she has heard plovers, rosellas and chirping budgies in its call.

Maurie Lewis

He saw 6 Cockatiels at Eppalock on 4.3.2009 and 6 Magpie Geese and 2 Brolgas at Waranga Basin on 5.3.2009.

Kerrie Norris

The BFNC Fauna Group gathering on 15.3.2009 finished up at the Kangaroo Flat Botanical Gardens to be entertained by a pair of Tawny Frogmouths hawking under the light by BBQ shelter. Perched on the shelter or atop the signage they were prime models for a photographer.

And here is another one from Peter Ellis who missed the meeting:

A top knot pigeon near my drive was gorging on the tiny berries of the ground cover saltbush that is everywhere in my garden (*Atriplex semibaccata*), plucking them off like grapes from a vine. Also several Ruby Saltbushes (*Enchylaena tomentosa var. tomentosa*) have come up naturally in my garden (I haven't planted any) as well as on the vacant block next door and further down the Lane. According to Marilyn Sprague, they are the Charlton Swan Hill form as they have yellow-orange berries. This in itself a mystery but I suppose if someone has it growing in the neighbourhood, birds could spread the seeds. Anyway, several magpies attracted to my garden while watering suddenly discovered one of these bushes loaded with orange berries and started eating them, including some from the ground.

And even more observations...these ones are from Springs Road, Sedgwick

by Lois Semmens

What birds visited during the extreme hot weather in January/February and early March for a drink of water or a bath? I have a moulded plastic birdbath under a big Liquidamber on the verandah at the back door. The birds were not keen on landing on the rim (it had holes all the way round), so I tied some sticks along two sides of the bath (sticking out both sides), so the birds could land on them instead when drinking. It also made it easier for the birds to dive into the water. Birds did not appear one by one, but they came in groups, all having a drink together, for example ten New Holland Honeyeaters or a group consisting of a Spinebill, a Silvereye, a Spotted Pardalote and a Red-browed Finch.

Below is a list of birds that came to the bird bath. Some were visitors (V), but most were residents.

- Blue Wrens (males losing their blue suits for grey)
- White-browed Scrub Wren (2 adults, 3 young)
- Silvereyes
- Striated & Yellow-rumped Thornbills
- Red-browed Firetails
- Eastern Spinebills (2 adults, 2 young)
- New Holland Honeyeaters (more than usual)
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater (dragged himself to one side of the bird bath and back again, with just his head out of the water and a Spinebill diving in for a dip beside him)
- White-plumed Honeyeater
- Fuscous Honeyeater (more)
- Brown-headed Honeyeaters (13, my favourites)
- Red Wattlebirds (three always came in for a drink)

- Rufous Whistler (V, nests here every year)
- White-throated Treecreeper (V, 10th, 14th, Feb, 22nd 28th March)
- White-winged Choughs (how many can you fit into a bird bath? 5 with 12 waiting for a spare corner!)
- Red-rumped Grass Parrot (pair)
- Crimson Rosella (pair and three immature)
- Magpies (six adults and one young)
- Grey Thrush (pair)
- Black Birds (too many)
- White-eared Honeyeater (V)
- Grey Fantails (pair)
- Willie Wagtail (pair)
- Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (V)
- Little Friarbird (V,1 drinking 21st Feb)
- Bronzewing Pigeon (23rd feb)
- Restless Flycatcher (pair)
- Spotted Turtledove (V, 25th Feb, stayed 3 days)
- Grey Currawong (1, bathing)
- Magpie Lark

The Striated and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Fire-tails, New Holland, Yellow-faced, Fuscus and Brown-headed Honeyeaters came to the bath in small groups (safety in numbers). Also, what I found very useful, was a dog water bottle feeder. The bottle screws into a bowl. I have this further away from the house, under a shrub, and the magpies are still using it.

On the 18th March at 3.00 in the afternoon, I heard this bird call in the Liquidamber and there were three Zebra Finches. I have not heard of seen them here for a long, long time.

***Schizophyllum commune* (Splitgill)**
Don't get too close...

Rod Orr saw this fungus on a dead acacia early in the walk along the lava canal at Mt Eccles (where he also saw he star of our front cover). The 'Fungimap' book warns 'CAUTION - DO NOT SMELL' because ..."Splitgill spores may be pathogenic and cause the disease basidioneuromycosis." That was new to Rod, especially after getting so close to take its photo!

Schizophyllum commune (Photographer: Rod Orr)

Tough snakes in Oz

Contribution compiled by Peter Ellis

Extraordinary!

Slimy battle of wills

An engrossing reptilian encounter was captured on camera recently when a red bellied black snake bit off a bit more than it could chew.

Tony Barton of South Gundagai arrived home recently to find a large black snake, almost six feet long in his car park, with what he thought was a stick protruding out of its mouth.

Closer inspection revealed that the "stick" was actually the tail of a brown snake that the black was in the process of swallowing.

An astonished Tony asked his wife Barbara to keep an eye on the two reptiles while he went to get his camera.

She watched as the black snake finished swallowing the brown and slithered off.

Tony and Barbara then saw the snake a little later on their front lawn, but this time, incredibly, the brown snake's head had started to reappear.

"The black was pretty sluggish and it opened its mouth and I saw a pair of eyes," Tony said.

"Then the brown snake latched onto the black's bottom jaw and proceeded to pull itself out – it was covered in slobber.

"It must have turned around inside the black and pulled itself out."

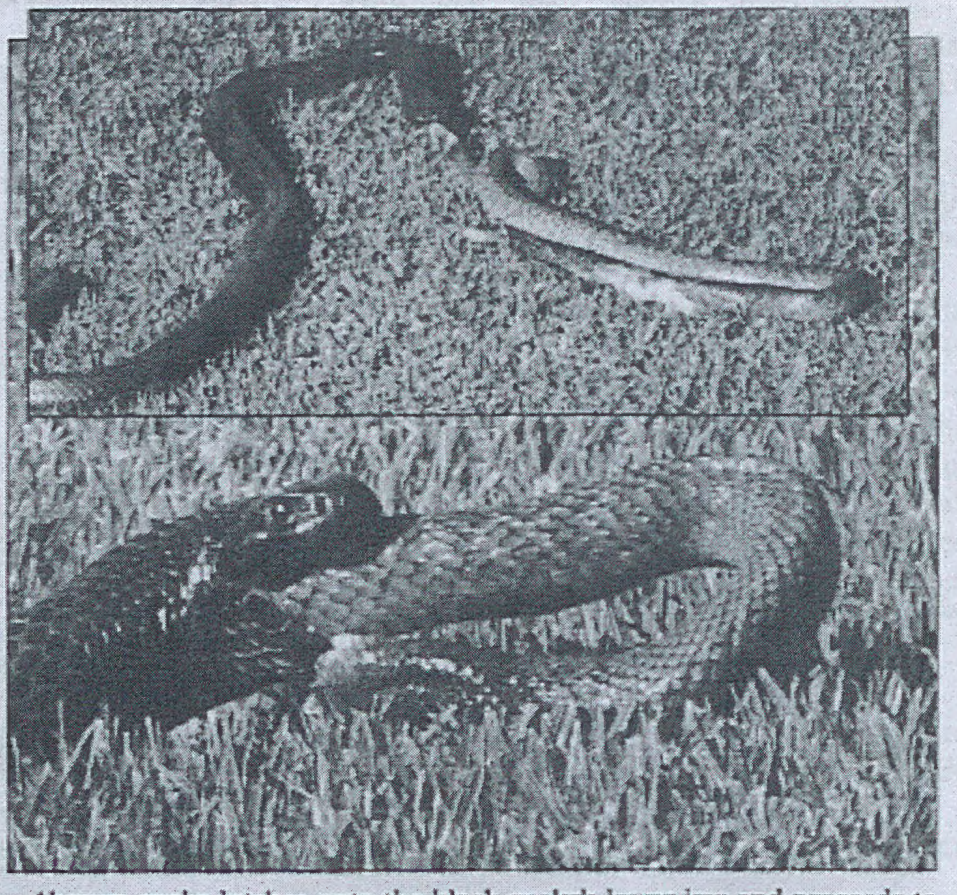
Once the brown snake was out the "black snake took off like a rocket".

Snake experts Janine Kovaks (Wires) and The Snakeman Tony Davis of Wagga both say they have never heard of a similar incident.

"Snakes are cannibalistic and it is not unusual that one snake will swallow another, but they are usually asphyxiated," Janine said.

"It's amazing that the brown survived and came out."

And, while the black slithered away apparently none the worse for its experience, if the brown snake has envenomated it when it latched onto the black's lower jaw, it could take up to a couple of weeks for the venom to go through its system.

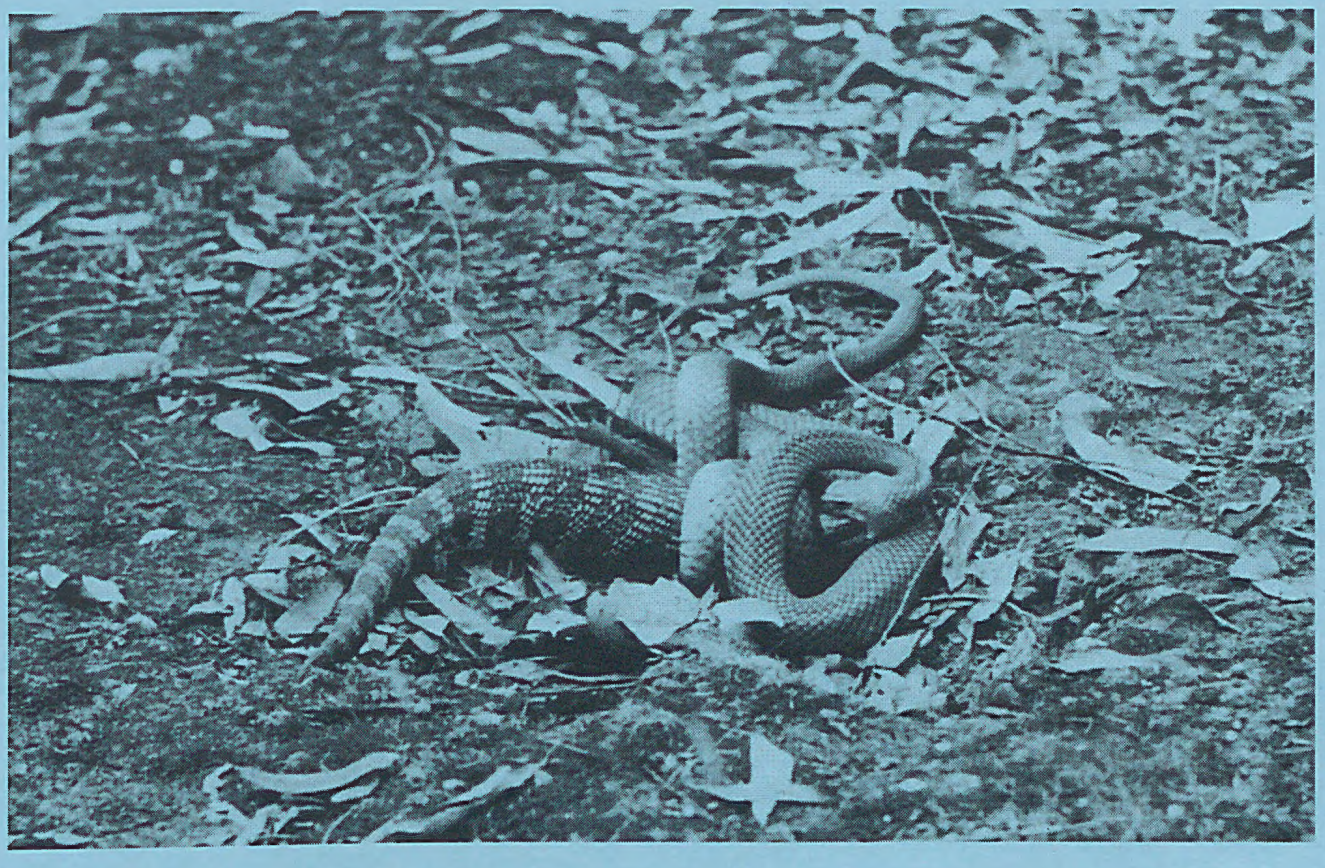


A brown snake latches onto the black snake's lower jaw and proceeds to pull itself out, having a few minutes before been swallowed whole. Inset The slimy brown is all but out. Both snakes slithered away following the encounter.

Tumut and Adelong Times, 23/1/2009

The only slightly near thing I could compare from many years ago was at Bob (retired FHSC teacher) and Sherrill Hayes' home in the bush on Gap Rd. off Crusoe Rd. to Lockwood South, where a brown snake had swallowed a blue tongue lizard; all you could see was the lizard's mouth and glazed eye just showing in the snake's jaw. Who said if you have blue tongue lizards you won't have snakes?

Peter actually managed to track down the photo from Bob and Sherrill Hayes, which was taken in the early 1980s.



A local Brown Snake swallowing a Blue Tongue Lizard. The snake was 6 feet or more in length and was having a hard time getting the lizard down.

Photographer: Bob Hayes

Speaker Syllabus for February – July 2009

DATE	PRESENTER	TITLE
13/5/09	LYNDA CHAMBERS	Flora, fauna, climate change and community science: How you can help
10/6/09	RICHARD GOONAN	What happened to our Creekline Grassy Woodlands?
8/7/09	NICK CLEMANN	Snake management in Victoria

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, May 13 **7.30pm**
Lynda Chambers is our speaker, her title is: 'Flora, fauna, climate change and community science: How you can help?'

Wednesday, June 10 **7.30pm**
Richard Goonan is the speaker and he'll be talking about a very special environment

Excursions
Contact Richard Goonan if you have any comments, questions or suggestions for excursions (ph 0423418815).

Fauna Group
This group normally meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on **Wednesday, 28th May.** Ern Perkins will talk about 'The changing forests – the importance of long term monitoring'.

Regular Fauna Excursions
Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

'Friends of Kooyoora' Activities

Eastern Walking Track Extension Work Day
17th May 2009

Exploring the Wehla Block 21st June 2009

Indigenous Heritage Day 19th July 2009

For these three activities, meet at 10.30am at the Melville Caves picnic area. And BYO picnic lunch

2009 Kooyoora Wildflower Show

18th – 20th September
Rheola Hall
More details closer to the date.

Australian Plants in the 21st Century
GEELONG 26th September to 2nd October 2009.Interesting talks, excursions and guided tours EVERYONE WELCOME
If you have a passion for native plants, join us in Geelong - We'd love to show you aroundASGAP2009 - Proudly hosted by APS (Australian Plants Society) Victoria

see February *Whirrakee*, or, for even more information go to:
http://asgap2009.apsvic.org.au/ or
http://asgap2009.apsvic.org.au/index.html

Biodiversity Across the Borders conference
The theme for 2009 is "Maintaining biodiversity in the face of environmental change" The conference will be held at the Mt. Helen campus of the University of Ballarat - 19th June 2009.

The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Roger Jones, Victoria University.
Themes will include:
Water and wetlands,
Vegetation dynamics and management,
Ecology and management of fauna,
Arid zone restoration &
Social aspects of biodiversity management